



CALPEEK

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CMA & HEALTH ACCESS UNABLE TO REACH ACCORD ON MAJOR CALIF. HEALTH INSURANCE MEASURE..

The Calif. Medical Assn.(CMA) and the powerful 170-member Health Access coalition have broken off talks over a proposed initiative that would provide basic, low-cost HEALTH INSURANCE to about 5-6 million CA workers who are NOT covered at present...

...The CMA said the HA coalition wanted a single-pay/Canadian-style health system, which the CMA opposes; while HA sources said the doctors were unwilling to compromise on cost containment. Whatever the reason for the breakup, 2 anti-CMA groups opposed to mandatory health insurance are very HAPPY CAMPERS...

...What next? CMA sources say they are still hoping to expand their alliance and proceed with an initiative, but other CALPEEK sources think the CMA will see the handwriting on the wall and back off --- thus dropping the ballot measure approach. Without the influential HA coalition, CMA would have a tough time selling the package as it is now written. Essentially the CMA plan calls for all businesses to provide this low-cost health insurance. There may be a need for some taxpayer assistance to small companies who might not be able to afford the coverage. Sources think that any initiative requiring taxpayer dollars will have a VERY difficult time winning voter approval next year....

...WHAT TO LOOK FOR? Since there are MIXED signals on whether there will or won't be an initiative, one must look at other developments. For example, about 3 weeks ago the CMA's top lobbyist, Jay Michael, resigned. Michael was a strong supporter of the initiative, so there is speculation he may have lost an internal power struggle...

...And keep your eyes on the CA Assn. of

Hospitals & Health Systems. If CAHHS lines up with CMA, chances are pretty good that a ballot campaign will happen. Right now CMA's main enemy is TIME --- which is running out. CMA needs to move quickly if it is to qualify a November 1992 initiative. Stay tuned...

S.F. MAYOR'S RACE: AGNOS STILL AHEAD, WITH JORDAN AND ALIOTO BATTLING FOR RUNOFF SPOT.

Editor's note: The San Francisco municipal election is set for Nov. 5th, with a number of hot ballot measures and the mayor's job on the line. Here is CALPEEK's update and analysis...

...With just over a week to go, insiders feel incumbent Mayor Art Agnos should have little problem making a runoff, but warn it could be a close call. The BIG question is who will Agnos face in a runoff: ex-SFPD Chief Frank Jordan or S.F. Co. Sup. Angela Alioto???

...Some polling data which appeared in the Oct. 14th edition of the S.F. Examiner's Insider Column suggests that Jordan may be pulling away from Alioto. The polling data was supposedly done by Agnos's campaign. It shows Agnos at 29% (he's still stuck below 30%); Jordan at 21%; and Alioto at 15%. S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Hsieh is at 8%, while S.F. Co. Assessor Richard Hongisto is at 7%. The remaining 20% are undecided, with a very small percentage for some other candidates...

...Why is Alioto slipping? The flap over how Alioto funded her first and unsuccessful race for the board of supes in 1986 is getting loads of news media attention -- and needless to say the publicity ISN'T positive. CALPEEK reported on Alioto's

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problems in our Oct. 7th issue so we're not going to rehash it. Alioto blames Agnos consultant Richie Ross for this controversy. Ross managed Alioto's campaign in 1986....

...Who would have the best chance to beat Agnos in a runoff? Very mixed opinion on this question. Some say Alioto has the best shot, despite the funding flap because conventional wisdom has it that liberal S.F. voters will never elect an ex police chief as mayor. Others don't buy that, especially if there is a LOW voter turnout. Who votes in low turnout elections? Conservatives...

...As for controversial ballot measures, insiders think Measure H by State Sen. Quentin Kopp to ban the position of deputy mayor is a slam dunk winner. But keep your eyes on Measure K and Measure M. K is an attempt to repeal the domestic partnership agreement law in S.F. (all five major mayor candidates are OPPOSED), while M is the vacancy control law. Here Jordan and Hsieh are on the NO side, with Agnos, Alioto and Hongisto in FAVOR. Stay tuned...

BROWN'S WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY PLAY WELL IN SOUTH SUCCOTASH, BUT NOT IN CALIF.

Editor's note: CALPEEK doesn't devote a great deal of coverage to presidential politics, but former CA Gov. Jerry Brown's announcement speech is worth a short analysis by this publication...

...Blasting the POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT is very much IN these days and that was the cornerstone of Jerry Brown's presidential declaration speech in Philadelphia Oct. 21st. Why didn't he make the announcement on familiar home turf? Brown is noted for doing the OPPOSITE of conventional wisdom. The stuff about him being unpopular here in Calif. also has a ring of truth...

...What insiders find extraordinary was the hostile tone in Brown's message. Too hostile in the view of some insiders. Brown's attack on "careerism, corruption and campaign consultants" also had a hollow ring when standing in the background were Brown consultants Patrick Caddell and Alex Evans. Both have been providing FREE advice to Brown on his White House campaign...

...While Brown's delivery surely didn't put the folks in South Succotash to sleep, the overall message doesn't play all that well UNLESS you believe that Brown is a BORN AGAIN politician who has been recently converted. Remember, only a few months ago he was the chair of the CA Demo Party and raised millions to help elect and REELECT Demos to the CA Legislature and Congress. So much for Brown's slap at INCUMBENCY...

...As for money, Brown's \$100 contribution limit is silly symbolism and eventually it will put his campaign into a difficult position. Better to make the limit \$250, which is what it takes to get federal matching funds...

...BOTTOMLINE: Some observers, such as columnists Jack Germond & David Broder, don't rate Brown in the upper tier of Demo presidential candidates, but polling has shown Brown to be THE LEADER when NY Gov. Mario Cuomo and Jesse Jackson are not included. Stay tuned...

DEMO ASSEMBLYMAN PEACE'S LATEST HIT NOT AIMED AT REPUBLICANS BUT AT MUPPET BABIES. It's not a political HIT that has Assemblyman Steve Peace(D-Chula Vista) smiling these days, but rather another kind of hit. When he's not in Sacramento writing laws, he produces movies and TV shows. His latest hit is causing considerable pain for CBS, NBC and ABC. Peace's hit is a kiddy cartoon version of his now cult-classic movie, "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes." It airs Saturdays at 7 a.m. and according to CALPEEK sources, is crushing the competition: Muppet Babies on CBS, Spacecats on NBC and Winnie-the-Pooh on ABC. Killer Tomatoes airs on the Fox Network. Is there a chance that ABC will move "Beetlejuice" from it's 8:30 a.m. slot to compete? P.S. Word is that "Killer Tomatoes Strike Back" will be on home video for X-Mas, with "Killer Tomatoes Eat France" scheduled for release next year. Stay tuned...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

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AB 101 UPDATE: GAY ACTIVISTS PLAN DRIVE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT IN WEST HOLLYWOOD.

Editor's note: The rallying cry among GAY political activists in the City of West Hollywood these days is "Remember Bruce Boland." Boland worked for the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. for 6 years, but a short time after he said he was GAY (1989), his life as a deputy deteriorated. In April of 1989 he busted a guy for possession of drug paraphernalia, but made a mistake in writing out his report. The DA had to drop the charges against the man, but Boland was charged with a FELONY for allegedly filing a false police report. On June 1, 1990, a judge threw the case out, but Boland was fired anyway. Boland now has a \$90 million law suit against the sheriff, claiming he was fired because he was GAY. So when Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed AB 101, the so-called GAY bill of rights to ban job discrimination, some gay activists in West Hollywood decided the time was right to get rid of the sheriff's department and start a drive to form a separate police department for the city. Here is CALPEEK's report...

...The committee which is aiming for a June 1992 ballot measure is called Citizens for a West Hollywood Police Dept. Chairman of this group is activist Howard Armistead, who was one of the key leaders in the 1984 cityhood drive. Armistead says his group hopes to raise between \$50,000 and \$70,000 for this effort. The group has already hired consultant Susan Burnside to coordinate the petition drive. The measure is still being drafted...

...The main roadblock to forming a separate West Hollywood PD has always been the issue of COST. The City of West Hollywood, with a population of about 38,000, pays the L.A. Co. Sheriff \$9.2 million a year for services (24.1% of the city budget). Culver City, with 40,000, has a PD budget of \$13.4 million (19.2% of budget). WH City Mgr. Paul Brotzman says that to replace the sheriff with a PD would cost \$12-15 million a year. Armistead says Brotzman is wrong on his figures...

...Is there much support for a separate PD? Although there is a group of highly vocal gay activists in support of such a drive, there is NOT united gay support for a separate PD and the betting is that the city's 70% non-gay population is satisfied with

the sheriff's job performance. So the odds of a proposal like this winning next June are NOT rated high. Stay tuned...

VOTERS REJECT POKER CLUB/HOTEL IN SO. GATE.

There are only 6 cities in So. Calif. which permit legalized POKER CLUBS to operate. The City of South Gate in southeastern L.A. County was hoping to become the 7th, but it didn't happen. On Oct. 22 Voters rejected a \$60 million poker club/hotel complex plan that was on the ballot as Measure A. Despite the fact the plan had the unanimous backing of the city council, the leading community newspaper and even the police officers' association, it was crushed by a 71% to 30% margin, with nearly 29% of the voters casting ballots...

...As is typical in these kinds of POKER CLUB campaign battles, large amounts of money were spent by both sides. The YES side, under the banner of The Committee to Protect South Gate & Promote Economic Prosperity in the Greater Los Angeles Area (isn't that a name) spent about \$200,000, while the NO side, with 2 key opposition committees, spent about \$150,000...

...An opposition leader in this battle was quoted in the L.A. Times as saying, "The people have seen the light." Not exactly, but they did see lots of HIT mail produced by The Wessell Company for the main NO on A group and even more negative mail designed by consultant John Kern for George Hardie, who operates the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens, the other key opponent in the battle. Stay tuned...

CA REPUBLICAN LEAGUE SETS 7th LINCOLN CONF.

The CA Republican League(CRL), the moderate GOP volunteer group, has set Nov. 15-17 as the dates for its 7th bi-annual Lincoln Conference in Walnut Creek. The 3-day gathering will be at the Doubletree Hotel. Gov. Pete Wilson, U.S. Sen. John Seymour and U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell are tentatively set to address delegates. Also on the agenda are a number of workshops and panels. CA Sec. of Resources Douglas Wheeler is one of the speakers on the panel about future WATER needs. For info, contact Karla Henderlong (510)829-8480 or CLR Pres. Yvonne Nix at (213)486-1604...

SEYMOUR UNDER ATTACK BY CALIF. DEMO PARTY.

It's very early for Campaign '92, but the CA Demo Party has decided that now is the time to go on the attack against appointed GOP U.S. Sen. John Seymour --- with a theme that is certainly hot in terms of news value: Seymour is NO friend of WOMEN...

...In a 60 second radio spot produced by consultant Sid Galanty for the CDP, the attack's main theme is that "John doesn't care" when it comes to women's issues. The narrative notes that Seymour voted to confirm Clarence Thomas for the U.S. Supreme Court; that while in the CA State Senate he voted 18 times against CHOICE; and that he didn't do anything or say anything after Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a sexual harassment bill...

...The spot is supposed to run in 4 key markets: L.A., S.F., San Diego and Sacto. The radio ad is slated for news and talk shows. Stay tuned...

OAKLAND FIRE: SOME CALPEEK SIDEBAR NOTES.

Destroyed in the huge Oakland/Berkeley area inferno were the homes of State Sen. Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland), Alameda Co. Sup. Warren Widener, Oakland Councilwoman Marge Gibson and Oakland Tribune Publisher Robert Maynard. Also now homeless is Oakland Port Authority PA chief Mel Wax...

...S.F. Bay disaster officials have been planning what to do in the next emergency situation so when the fire got out of control on Oct. 19, the MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY PR TEAM went to work. PR/political consultant Paul Shinoff set up the press communications center, while PA/political consultant Larry Kamer handled media problems at the main shelter in Oakland. The PBN Co.'s Hadley Roff, plus 8 other PBN staffers, were also part of the team...

IAPC TO HOLD NOV. 10 MEETING IN AUSTRALIA.

The Internat'l Assn. of Political Consultants will hold their 24th World Congress meeting from Nov. 10-14 in Sydney, Australia. Invited speakers include Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore. For additional info, contact Blythe Egan or Danielle Sanford at Cerrell Associates (213)466-3445...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's press secretary, Michael Reese, will be leaving that job in December to become a sr. consultant with State Treas. Kathleen Brown...

- John R. Nienstedt, president of San Diego-based Competitive Edge Research and Communication, has acquired 100% owner of the firm from former partner John Stalker. The firm was founded in 1987...

- It's no longer the polling firm of Fairbank, Bregman & Maullin. S.F.-based Gene Bregman is once again a solo operation at 5 Third St., Ste. 28, S.F. 94103; (415) 957-9700. John Fairbank and Richard Maullin remain in Santa Monica at same address and phone. Sources say it was a friendly split and there may be some joint projects in the future...

- Robin M. Kramer named director of public affairs at L.A.-based Marathon Communications. Kramer is a former chief of staff to L.A. Councilman Richard Alatorre and before that was head of the Coro Foundation in L.A...

- Jill Dufour has joined Campaign Management, Inc. in Costa Mesa as a Jr. AE. Most recently Dufour served as an intern for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation...

- Pacific/West Communications Group, Inc., of L.A. has opened a Sacto office at 1121 "L" St., Ste. 505, Sacto 95814 (916) 441-1625. Former Air Resources Board consultant Megan Taylor will run the office with the title of VP and sr. mgr...

- CA Republicans for Choice PAC has elected Susan Harding as president. Treasurer is Daralyn Reed. CRC-PAC (916)927-0932...

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

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